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said, “although I doubt anyone would want to handle the bloodworms.”

The program’s microscopes are a popular feature. “Observing plankton and other samples through the microscopes is really popular,” Chandler said. “Kids love the magnet sticks we have for them to explore on the beach. The sand has a lot of magnetite and the magnet will separate it from the sand, sort of like using an Etch-a-Sketch,” he added.

Brochures and pamphlets are also available for visitors, as are a collection of historic photographs. Visitors can compare what the beach and the Seaside Promenade looked like in the past in comparison to its present.

“People are fascinated to see how the landscape has changed,” Chandler said. “There was much less space between the Prom and the tide line and there was even a pier. The Prom was originally built as a barrier to protect businesses and homes from ocean waves, but now that’s no longer necessary since the dunes have built up,”

LEFT: A sign and tent point visitors in the direction of the Seaside Beach Discovery Program.

he added.

When jetties were built up along the Columbia River over a century ago, sediment and sand began to accumulate along the nearby coast, altering its landscape.

“The beach was much steeper to access and wasn’t originally sand, but cobblestones,” Chandler said. “The steps going down to the beach from the Turnaround are still disappearing under sand today. There once were sixteen steps going down to the beach, all buried,” he added.

Another popular program display is a sampling of different sands from beaches around the world, highlighting the diversity present in seaside landscapes. Some visitors are even inspired to contribute a piece of home.

“People who have visited Seaside and our Discovery Program will send us sand from their home beaches for comparison,” Chandler said.

To find the Seaside Beach Discovery Program, look for the blue tent near the Seaside Aquarium. All events are free and open to the public. “Just remember we’re weather dependent,” Chandler said, “so if it’s pouring rain sideways or the wind blows our tent away, we might not be there. Otherwise, we’re ready to share the fun.”



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